

Message Text

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17

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 OMB-01 IO-14 AID-20 SY-04 SCCT-02 NIC-01

COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01 DRC-01 /152 W

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R 171146Z JUN 74

FM AMCONSUL LAHORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 054

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMEMBASSY KABUL

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PK

SUBJECT: POLITICAL SITUATION IN PUNJAB

REF: (A) LAHORE 0863 (NOTAL)

(B) ISLAMABAD 5734

(C) ISLAMABAD 5760 (NOTAL)

BEGIN SUMMARY: PUNJAB REMAINS GENERALLY QUIET FOLLOWING SUCCESSFUL HARTAL JUNE 14. RIGHT-WING RELIGIOUS LEADERS EXPRESSED SOME DISSATISFACTION WITH PRIME MINISTER'S ADDRESS TO NATION, ANNOUNCED INTENTIONS TO CONTINUE ANTI-AHMADIYA AGITATION AND REQUESTED FOREIGN MUSLIM LEADERS TO PUT PRESSURE ON BHUTTO. THEY THREATENED MORE DRASIC ACTION IF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY DOES NOT TAKE UP ISSUE AFTER JUNE 30 AND LEGISLATE AGAINST AHMADIYAS. TEHRIK ISTIQLAL LEADER ASGHAR KHAN'S PRESS CONFERENCE JUNE 14 BROUGHT UNFAVORABLE REACTION, AND HIS PARTY AND PUNJAB WING OF NAP HAVE SHIED AWAY FROM INVOLVEMENT IN SECTARIAN ISSUE. PRIME MINISTER HAS LEFT

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LAHORE AFTER ADDRESSING SECTARIAN, PARTY AND LABOR

QUESTIONS. LABOR TENSION HAS DECLINED, BUT PROSPECT IS FOR CONTINUING AGITATION OVER SECTARIAN ISSUE DURING NEXT TWO OR THREE WEEKS. END SUMMARY.

1. SINCE EMBASSY SUBMITTED REFTEL C, PUNJAB HAS REMAINED QUIET, EXCEPT FOR TWO SMALL INCIDENTS IN SHEIKHUPURA AND LAHORE. DURING JUNE 14 MEETING AT LAHORE MOSQUE, MAJLIS-E-AMAL (ACTION COMMITTEE; PREVIOUSLY CALLED JAC) RELIGIOUS LEADERS MADE SERIES OF FIERY SPEECHES CONGRATULATING THEM-SELVES ON SUCCESS OF HARTAL, WHICH WAS REFERRED TO AS "REFERENDUM" INDICATING MASS SUPPORT OF THEIR DEMANDS. SOME SPEAKERS INDICATED THAT MAJLIS WOULD BIDE ITS TIME UNTIL NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CONSIDERATION OF QUESTION OF AHMADIYAS. THEY WARNED, HOWEVER, THAT IF THEIR DEMANDS ARE NOT ACCEPTED AND IMPLEMENTED, GOVERNMENT WOULD HAVE TO "ACCEPT ENTIRE RESPONSIBILITY FOR ANY CONSEQUENCES."

2. JAMAAT-I-ISLAMI LEADER MIAN TUFAIL MOHAMMAD REPORTEDLY SENT TELEGRAM TO SAUDI ARABIA OVER WEEKEND REQUESTING KING FAISAL'S INTERVENTION TO HELP SOLVE SECTARIAN QUESTION. IN TELEGRAM, MOHAMMAD REPORTEDLY REMINDED MONARCH THAT ISSUES SHOULD BE VIEWED IN LIGHT OF DECISIONS TAKEN DURING RABITA-E-ALAM-E-ISLAMI CONFERENCE HELD LAST APRIL IN JIDDA. (ACCORDING TO LOCAL SOURCE, CONFERENCE DECIDED TO CONDEMN AHMADIYAS AS AGENTS OF ISRAEL AND INTERNATIONAL ZIONISM, AND TO DECLARE AHMADIYAS AS NON-MUSLIMS THROUGHOUT ISLAMIC WORLD.) ON JUNE 15, LYALLPUR CHAPTER OF JUI HELD EMERGENCY MEETING AND PASSED RESOLUTION CALLING UPON KING FAISAL, COLONEL GADAFI OF LIBYA AND PRES. SADAT OF EGYPT TO PUT PRESSURE ON BHUTTO TO DECLARE AHMADIYAS MINORITY IN PAKISTAN.

3. ON JUNE 16, MAJLIS LEADERS (EXCEPT FOR NAP REPRESENTATIVE) MET AS SCHEDULED IN LYALLPUR TO DISCUSS PRIMIN'S ADDRESS TO NATION. ACCORDING TO PRESS, THEY EXPRESSED GENERAL DISSATISFACTION WITH BHUTTO'S REMARKS, SAYING PRIMIN DID NOT APPEAR TO HAVE TAKEN ISSUE SERIOUSLY SINCE HE WANTED TO POSTPONE DECISION. MAJLIS DECLARED THAT BHUTTO COULD HAVE TAKEN ADMINISTRATIVE DECISION ON SUBJECT, AND THAT IN ANY CASE HE SHOULD HAVE SUSPENDED NATIONAL ASSEMBLY BUDGET SESSION TO ALLOW MNAs TO CONSIDER AHMADIYA QUESTION. MAJLIS DECIDED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THAT, UNTIL ITS DEMANDS WERE ACCEPTED, MEMBERS WOULD CONTINUE "PEACEFUL AND DIGNIFIED AGITATION," AND WOULD INITIATE MASS CONTACT MOVEMENT, CAMPAIGN AMONG LEGISLATORS, AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC BOYCOTT OF AHMADIYAS. JUI'S MAULANA MUFTI MAHMOOD ANNOUNCED THAT ALL-PAKISTAN MAJLIS HAD BEEN CREATED, WITH ONE MAULANA YUSUF BINNAURI AS PRESIDENT.

4. TEHRIK ISTIQLAL LEADER ASGHAR KHAN HELD PRESS CONFER-

ENCE IN LAYRE JUNE 14, WHICH FOR FIRST TIME IN MONTHS GOT HIM CONSIDERABLE (ADVERSE) PUBLICITY. APPARENTLY, NO JOURNALIST OF ANY PERSUASION WAS SATISFIED WITH AIR MARSHAL'S COMMENT THAT AHMADIYA COMMUNITY WAS "ALREADY A TINY MINORITY," ALTHOUGH HE DID STATE THAT HE FIRMLY BELIEVED IN FINALITY OF PROPHET MOHAMMAD (KHATM-E-NABUWWAT). WHEN ASKED WHY TI HAD NOT JOINED MAJLIS, HE RETORTED THAT HE COULD NOT JOIN ORGANIZATION WHICH LOOKED TO BHUTTO FOR REDRESS, SINCE HE DID NOT RECOGNIZE BHUTTO AS CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF PAKISTAN. HE ASSERTED THAT HE NO LONGER BELIEVED IN HOLDING ELECTIONS AND ARGUED THAT ONLY WAY TO "GET RID OF MR. BHUTTO" WAS FOR PEOPLE TO TAKE TO STREETS. ASKED WHO WOULD LEAD PEOPLE, ASGHAR REPLIED THAT IF PEOPLE COULD GUARANTEE THERE WOULD BE NO BLOODSHED, HE WAS "AVAILABLE TO SHOULDER THAT RESPONSIBILITY."

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